

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

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FOR H

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJ: JULY 4TH PERFORMANCE OF PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL BAND

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO SENATORS
HELMS AND MORGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA AND TO CONGRESSMAN
W. G. (BILL) HEFNER OF THE EIGHT DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA:

"I SHOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION AND TO
COMMEND THE EFFORTS OF A GROUP OF YOUR YOUNG CONSTITUENTS
WHO HERE IN NASSAU ON JULY 4TH DID SO MUCH TO STRENGTHEN
THE BOND OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND BAHAMIAN
PEOPLE AND TO ENHANCE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERN-
MENTS. I REFER TO THE RECENTLY COMPLETED VISIT TO THE
BAHAMAS OF THE PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL BAND OF MONROE, NORTH
CAROLINA WHO TOOK TIME OUT FROM A FAR TOO SHORT VACATION
TO PERFORM AT THE EMBASSY AT OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMOR-
ATION FOR SENIOR BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEMBERS
OF THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS AND OTHER GUESTS FROM
THE AMERICAN AND LOCAL COMMUNITY.

"THIS GROUP OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WAS OUTSTANDING
IN EVERY WAY. THEY ARE SKILLED MUSICIANS WHOSE PERFORMANCE
THAT EVENING WAS POLISHED AND PROFESSIONAL. EVEN MORE
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IMPORTANT THEY REPRESENTED THE VERY BEST VALUES THAT THE
YOUTH OF OUR COUNTRY CAN OFFER AND I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS
WAS NOTED WITH GREAT PRIDE BY MYSELF, MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF
THE EMBASSY STAFF, AND BY ALL THEIR COMPATRIOTS AS WELL
AS OUR FOREIGN GUESTS.

"PARTICULAR CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MR. JAMES HILL,

THE BAND'S DIRECTOR WHO ORGANIZED THEIR VISIT AND WHO CONCEIVED THE PERFORMANCE. IN ADDITION TO MEETING AND OVERCOMING INNUMERABLE BUREAUCRATIC AND LOGISTICAL OBSTACLES, MR. HILL REMAINED UNFLAPPABLE DESPITE SOME LAST MINUTE PROBLEMS NOT OF OUR MAKING. IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT HE HAD THE EFTEEM AND RESPECT OF THE YOUNG BANDSMEN AND HE AMPLY DEMONSTRATED HIS SKILL NOT ONLY AS A DIRECTOR BUT AS AN ARRANGER IN TRANSPOSING THE BAHAMIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM - WHICH HE HAD NEVER HEARD PLAYED - FROM A PIANO SCORE TO A FULL BAND ARRANGEMENT. THE RESULTS WON THE APPLAUSE OF EVERYONE WHO HEARD IT.

"I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE PRINCIPAL OF PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL, MR. ROBERT MCRAE JR., AS WELL AS THE OTHER ADULTS WHO ACCOMPANIED THE BAND ON THIS VISWT AND WHO CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH IN MAKING THE EVENING A SUCCESS.

"I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR CONVEYING FOR ME AND FOR MY STAFF OUR APPRECIATION TO THE ENTIRE GROUP AND PARTICULARLY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BAND OUR VERY REAL AND SINCERE THANKS FOR WHAT THEY DID. EACH OF THEM WAS A DIPLOMAT IN THE REAL MEANING OF THAT TERM AND NEITHER WE NOR OUR BAHAMIAN FRIENDS WILL SOON GET THEIR VISIT."
TAYLOR

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